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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, May 10—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 11, through midnight Thursday, May 17.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

This period represents Week 4 of the six-week transition period from using current shipment prices to using forward shipment prices in the Northern Europe price component of the AWP calculation. For Week 3 and Week 4, the Northern Europe price = (Northern Europe current price) + (Northern Europe forward price)/2. This procedure was adopted to avoid a dramatic change in the AWP that could occur at the end of the marketing year with no transition period, due to differences between new and old crop price quotes.

Because both current shipment prices and forward shipment prices for “coarse count” cotton C.I.F. northern Europe are not yet available, the Northern Europe coarse count price this week will equal the 5-day average of the 3 lowest-priced current shipment prices for “coarse count” cotton C.I.F. northern Europe for the preceding Friday through Thursday. The six week transition period for the Northern Europe coarse count price component of the AWP will begin whenever both the

Northern Europe coarse count current price and the Northern Europe coarse count forward price become available.

In calculating the adjustment to average U.S. spot market location, Thursday's current shipment prices for U.S. Memphis territory and the California/Arizona territory as quoted for Middling 1-3/32 inch cotton C.I.F. northern Europe were used.

Based on data for the week ending May 10, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
Northern Europe Price	81.16
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	13.25
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.20
Average U.S. location	0.39
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-15.84</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	65.32 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment	
Northern Europe Price	81.16
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	<u>-78.65</u>
	2.51
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	<u>-4.75</u>
	-2.24
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, May 17.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#

TOMORROW'S VITAMIN AND MINERAL CHECKUP MAY RELY ON NEW PROBES

WASHINGTON—To find out if you're getting all the vitamins and minerals you need, your doctor might someday give you a battery of tests produced by U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers.

At USDA's Western Human Nutrition Research Center in San Francisco, scientists work on new ways to detect "slight or marginal deficiencies of vitamins and minerals—the type of shortage most common in this country," said James M. Iacono. He directs research at the center, which is part of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"Unlike severe deficiencies, marginal shortages lack easy-to-diagnose symptoms," explained Iacono. He said improved probes—still experimental—would pinpoint deficiencies of vitamins such as A, B1, B2, B6, C and niacin, or minerals such as selenium or molybdenum.

New and improved nutrition tests could aid not only the family doctor, but also the U.S. health officials who every five years or so pick some 30,000 Americans at random for the nation's nutrition census. The survey profiles what Americans eat, and is used in setting Recommended Dietary Allowances that end up on vitamin pill bottles and food labels.

"We'd like to offer tests that make it economical and practical to measure nutrients that aren't typically included in the survey, like vitamin B6 or selenium," said Iacono. "For other nutrients such as vitamin A, we think we can improve the most commonly used tests."

In studies with rats and humans, research nutrition scientist Monica C. Schaeffer at the San Francisco center looks for things that go awry when vitamin B6 levels drop. "A sluggish response to the sensation of a puff of air hitting your face, or a longer than normal delay in moving your finger from an uncomfortably warm surface might signal B6 deficiency," she said. "Nerves are involved in these responses and they don't work properly if you lack enough vitamin B6."

Revealing whether you're getting all the vitamin C you need might require only a few cells gently brushed from inside your cheek with a toothbrush, according to research chemist Robert A. Jacob at San Francisco. Such cells are called buccal cells.

"Our experiment may be the first to indicate that buccal cells can accurately reflect your vitamin C intake," he said. Earlier efforts to show a correlation didn't work.

To test for selenium, a mineral that we need in amounts “less than a grain of salt,” research chemist W. Chris Hawkes is refining an automated procedure, using the same type of chemical analyzer common in medical laboratories around the country. “People need very small amounts of selenium for a healthy heart, but too much of this mineral can be toxic,” said Hawkes.

Selenium tests are “an important tool in research that might someday more precisely define selenium’s danger zone,” according to Hawkes. His test, which he has already used to screen 5,000 blood samples, presents completely new way to accurately measure glutathione peroxidase, an enzyme that can’t function without selenium.

“Animal studies show that selenium is one of the world’s most powerful cancer-fighting compounds, but its maximum effects clearly occur only in what has been considered the toxic range,” he said. “There’s a similar effect with selenium and the immune system, although the best dosage for improving the immune system is right at the bottom of what we think is selenium’s toxic range. If we know more about selenium’s toxicity, maybe we could use selenium in the future to safely fight cancer or immune disorders like AIDS.”

Marcia Wood (415) 559-6070
Issued: May 10, 1990

#

LESS THAN 1 PERCENT OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL LAND IS FOREIGN-OWNED

WASHINGTON, May 10—Foreign interests owned 12.9 million acres, or slightly less than 1 percent, of privately owned U.S. agricultural land as of Dec. 31, 1989, according to an official with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service. The new total is 263,273 acres more than a year earlier.

“Foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land remained relatively steady from 1981 through 1989, slightly above or below 1 percent of the privately owned agricultural land in the United States,” said ERS Administrator John Lee.

About 60 percent of the reported foreign holdings is actually land owned by U.S. firms, Lee said. The law requires them to register their landholdings as foreign if as little as 10 percent of their common stock is

held by foreign investors. The rest of the foreign-held land is owned by investors not affiliated with U.S. firms.

Because of the corporate holdings, an increase in foreign ownership from one year to another does not necessarily represent land newly acquired by foreigners. Nor do the numbers necessarily represent ownership exclusively by foreigners. A U.S. firm's landholdings can show up as "foreign-owned" one year, but not another, as the firm's stock passes in and out of foreign hands. The land, however, is still owned by the same entity as before.

These and other findings are based on an analysis of reports submitted to USDA under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978.

The analysis also revealed:

- Forest land accounts for 46 percent of all foreign-owned acreage; cropland, 18 percent; pasture and other agricultural land, 31 percent; and agricultural land not under cultivation, 5 percent.

- Corporations (U.S. and foreign) own 81 percent of the foreign-held acreage; partnerships, 10 percent; and individuals, 7 percent. The remaining 2 percent is held by estates, trusts, associations, institutions and others.

- Japanese investors own 2 percent of the total foreign-held acreage. Investors (including individuals, corporations, partnerships, etc.) from Canada, the United Kingdom, West Germany, France, the Netherlands Antilles, Switzerland and the Netherlands own 73 percent of the foreign total.

- The largest foreign-owned acreage, mostly timberland, was reported in Maine. Foreign holdings account for 11 percent of Maine's privately owned agricultural land. These holdings represent about 16 percent of all the reported foreign-owned land nationwide. Four large timber companies own 91 percent of the foreign-held acres in Maine. Two are Canadian, the third is a U.S. company that is partially Canadian-owned, and the fourth is a U.S. company that is partially French-owned.

- Except for Maine, foreign holdings are concentrated in the South and West, each with 35 percent. Rhode Island is the only state with no reported foreign-owned agricultural land.

- Ninety-three percent of the foreign-owned acreage will remain in agricultural production, according to the foreign owners. They also reported no plans to change tenancy or rental arrangements on 45 percent

of the acres. Some change is planned on 26 percent of the acres. "No response" accounted for 29 percent.

State	Foreign-owned agricul- tural land	State	Foreign-owned agricul- tural land
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>
Alabama	298,756	Nebraska	76,265
Alaska	416	Nevada	156,465
Arizona	271,197	N. Hampshire	16,230
Arkansas	182,658	New Jersey	27,024
California	942,821	New Mexico	742,164
Colorado	535,139	New York	267,170
Connecticut	1,120	N. Carolina	249,484
Delaware	6,211	North Dakota	30,926
Florida	558,429	Ohio	169,560
Georgia	576,047	Oklahoma	31,375
Guam	336	Oregon	647,497
Hawaii	106,559	Pennsylvania	73,498
Idaho	18,796	Puerto Rico	839
Illinois	121,622	R. Island	0
Indiana	45,730	S. Carolina	198,023
Iowa	31,662	S. Dakota	42,901
Kansas	78,029	Tennessee	170,295
Kentucky	84,443	Texas	1,049,637
Louisiana	679,634	Utah	61,710
Maine	2,067,155	Vermont	91,080
Maryland	51,210	Virginia	115,583
Massachusetts	1,934	Washington	378,527
Michigan	200,676	W. Virginia	74,156
Minnesota	230,808	Wisconsin	23,287
Mississippi	442,365	Wyoming	100,395
Missouri	59,848		
Montana	487,812	Total	12,875,504

Table 2—U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner, December 31, 1989

Country	Acres	Country	Acres
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Number</i>
Interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders			
Argentina	13,030	Liberia	33,513
Australia	3,414	Libyan Arab Republic	302
Austria	56,170	Liechtenstein	181,100
Bahamas	32,734	Luxembourg	6,485
Bahrain	553	Malaysia	7,948
Belgium	62,871	Mexico	161,028
Belize	549	Montserrat	145
Bermuda	73,384	Morocco	17,035
Bolivia	11	Namibia	106
Brazil	1,621	Netherlands	126,334
British Virgin Is.	48,914	Netherlands Antilles	385,229
Canada	1,658,398	New Zealand	350
Cayman Islands	23,529	Nicaragua	1,378
Chile	1,556	Nigeria	14
China	496	Norway	5,526
Colombia	8,735	Oman	454
Costa Rica	15,579	Pakistan	2,171
Cuba	20	Panama	200,797
Czechoslovakia	485	Peru	281
Denmark	9,706	Philippines	3,687
Dominican Republic	2,129	Poland	147
Ecuador	1,040	Portugal	816
Egypt	2,134	St. Vincent	2,637
El Salvador	309	Saudi Arabia	39,877
France	87,518	Singapore	1,048
Gambia	294	South Africa	1,698
Germany (West)	739,657	Southern Rhodesia	230
Greece	57,423	Spain	1,998
Guatemala	844	Sweden	6,972

Guyana	35	Switzerland	215,529
Honduras	892	Syria	4,847
Hong Kong	17,791	Taiwan	6,948
Hungary	110	Tanzania	10,143
India	1,688	Thailand	240
Indonesia	804	Trinidad & Tobago	131
Iran	3,961	Turkey	558
Iraq	1,140	Turks Islands	3,192
Ireland	11,126	United Arab Emirates	3,019
Israel	991	United Kingdom	294,790
Italy	82,418	Uruguay	11,370
Ivory Coast	119	U.S.S.R.	841
Jamaica	1,621	Venezuela	18,176
Japan	171,330	Vietnam	152
Jordan	2,392	Yugoslavia	1,024
Kampuchea	31	Multiple ¹	51,190
Korea (South)	585	Third tier ²	61,511
Kuwait	1,568		
Laos	31	Subtotal ³	5,087,850

Table 2—U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner, December 31, 1989—Continued

Country	Acres	Country	Acres
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Number</i>
Interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders			
US/Andorra	3,741	US/Lebanon	703
US/Argentina	4,225	US/Liberia	29,945
US/Australia	1,480	US/Libyan Arab Rep.	280
US/Austria	19,264	US/Liechtenstein	52,236
US/Bahamas	68,867	US/Luxembourg	232,911
US/Barbados	41	US/Malaysia	300
US/Belgium	71,500	US/Mexico	169,088
US/Bermuda	38,711	US/Netherlands	340,407
US/Brazil	13,211	US/Netherlands Ant.	229,525
US/Brit. Virgin Is.	3,285	US/New Hebrides	2,991
US/Canada	1,384,829	US/New Zealand	594
US/Cayman Islands	42,045	US/Nicaragua	282
US/Chile	9,929	US/Norway	8,333
US/China	14,326	US/Panama	128,597
US/Colombia	10,154	US/Philippines	2,079
US/Denmark	6,761	US/Portugal	1,683
US/Ecuador	1,549	US/Quatar	219
US/Egypt	1,963	US/Saudi Arabia	18,771
US/El Salvador	493	US/South Africa	4,404
US/Finland	3,047	US/Spain	4,170
US/France	828,092	US/Sweden	3,424
US/Germany (West)	416,731	US/Switzerland	281,261
US/Greece	7,061	US/Taiwan	10,578
US/Guatemala	412	US/Thailand	252
US/Guyana	334	US/Trinidad & Tobago	20
US/Honduras	37	US/Turkey	443
US/Hong Kong	127,530	US/United Arab Emir.	2,108
US/Indonesia	197	US/United Kingdom	2,426,925
US/Iran	2,302	US/Uruguay	618

US/Iraq	960	US/Venezuela	38,080
US/Ireland	2,984	US/Multiple	179,776
US/Italy	12,319	US/Third Tier	386,872
US/Japan	123,634	Subtotal ⁴	7,787,654
US/Kenya	32		
US/Korea (South)	75		
US/Kuwait	7,628	Total all landholdings:	12,875,504

¹ A report is processed as “multiple” when no single country predominates—for example, an equal partnership between a Canadian and a West German.

² A report is processed as “third tier” if three or more levels of ownership are reported with no foreign interests indicated.

³ Total interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

⁴ Total interest of U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

J. Peter DeBraal (202) 786-1425

#

USDA DONATES SORGHUM TO MEXICO

WASHINGTON, May 10—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has signed an agreement with Christian Outreach Appeal, a private voluntary organization, to provide about 10,000 metric tons of U.S. sorghum for use in Mexico, according to F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager of USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service.

The \$850,000 donation will be sold to the Mexican private sector; the proceeds will be used to provide food assistance to the needy and to support program management and developmental activities. This program will reach as many as 180,000 participants in food-for-work and nutrition and health projects. The supply period is fiscal year 1990.

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas. The

program is carried out by the Agency for International Development, acting as the agent of CCC.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, Foreign Agricultural Service, (202) 382-9263.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

USDA REVISES COUNTRY, COMMODITY PUBLIC LAW 480 ALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL 1990

WASHINGTON, May 11—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued revised country and commodity allocations for fiscal 1990 under Titles I/III of Public Law 480, the Food for Peace Program.

Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard Crowder said current program plans provide for distribution of \$808.7 million in commodity shipments, up slightly from \$806 million the previous quarter. Of the current amount, \$769.3 million is presently allocated and \$39.4 is being held in a reserve to furnish commodities for unforeseen needs during the remainder of the fiscal year.

Crowder also said that Romania is currently a participant in the Titles I/III program with a \$20 million allocation to finance the purchase of feed grains. Other new agreements signed since the last quarter are with Bangladesh, Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guyana, Pakistan, Senegal, Yemen and Zaire. In addition, allocations have been increased for the Philippines from \$18.4 million to \$25 million and Yemen from \$15 million to \$25 million since the second quarterly report.

The revised allocations meet the legal requirement of Section III of P.L. 480, which directs that not less than 75 percent of the food commodities be allocated to friendly countries that meet the per capita income criterion for lending by the International Development Association. Currently the countries in this category are those with an annual per capita gross national product of \$1,070 or less.

Crowder said the program takes into account many variables including commodity and budget availabilities; changing economic and foreign policy situations, including human rights assessments; potential for market development; fluctuations in commodity prices; availability of handling, storage and distribution facilities; and possible disincentives to local production.

Since situations may develop which could cause a change in country and commodity allocations during the fiscal year, these allocations do not represent final U.S. commitments nor agreements with participating governments, although a number of Titles I/III agreement have been signed and more are expected to be signed shortly.

Title I of P.L. 480 is a concessional sales program designed to promote exports of agricultural commodities from the United States and to foster economic development in recipient countries. The program provides export credit of up to 40 years, with a grace period of up to 10 years and low interest rates.

Title III provides for the forgiveness of the debt incurred under Title I, based on accomplishments in food for development programs and projects agreed upon by the United States and recipient countries.

Additional technical information on the P.L. 480 program is available from Mary Chambliss of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, (202) 447-3573.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

9TH CIRCUIT COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTION IN VANDALISM OF NATIONAL FOREST HISTORIC SITE

WASHINGTON, May 11—F. Dale Robertson, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, today praised a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision last week upholding the conviction of an Oregon man for illegal excavation of archeological sites on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in Oregon.

The court held that the federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) is not unconstitutional and is not overbroad and vague.

"ARPA was conceived and written after the Antiquities Act of 1906 was found unconstitutionally vague," said Robertson. "This was the first time the recent law has been challenged in court, and it is gratifying to know that the court has upheld the law."

In its decision, the court upheld the conviction of Bradley Owen Austin, who was indicted in 1988 after a two-year federal investigation during which government agents seized more than 2,800 American Indian artifacts from his house trailer located on the Deschutes National Forest.

Austin was charged with 30 counts of violations of ARPA and other theft statutes, and was convicted of felony violation of ARPA. He was sentenced to two years in a federal penitentiary with all but four months suspended, five years of probation, 400 hours of community service work and a \$50 court fee.

Austin appealed the conviction on the grounds that ARPA is unconstitutionally overbroad and vague and that he was vindictively prosecuted. The appeal claimed that because curiosity motivated him, Austin's activity was academic and that academic freedom is protected under the first amendment to the Constitution.

The court rejected these arguments, saying that "Austin has not demonstrated that he is affiliated with any academic institution, nor has he posited how his own curiosity is otherwise academic." The decision went on to say that "not only does Austin not claim that the First Amendment actually protects any activity that ARPA reaches, he does not even suggest its relevance to any activity except his own excavating. Therefore, he has not shown that ARPA is unconstitutionally overbroad."

In regard to his claim that ARPA is vague, Austin's appeal had argued that the terms "tools and weapons" used in the law are ambiguous, and thus that the statute did not provide fair notice that his conduct was prohibited. But the court's decision said "there can be no doubt nor lack of fair notice that the scrapers and arrow points for which [Austin] was convicted are indeed weapons and tools. The statute provided fair notice that it prohibited the activities for which Austin was convicted."

Finally, Austin had argued that because the government filed two superseding indictments after he appealed his initial indictment in 1988, he was the victim of prosecutorial vindictiveness. Again, the court rejected the argument, saying the government added indictments based on discovery of new law and not in the belief that original indictments were weak or invalid. Therefore, the additional indictments were not vindictive.

"With some 150,000 sites and the potential for many more to be found on National Forest System lands, it is imperative that we are able to adequately protect the nation's cultural heritage through laws such as the Archaeological Resources Protection Act," Robertson said.

Marty Longan (202) 475-3777

#

YEUTTER NAMES MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL HONEY BOARD

WASHINGTON, May 11—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter has appointed ten members and alternates to three-year terms on the 13-member National Honey Board.

Honey board members are appointed to represent seven regions throughout the country for three-year terms. Producers, handlers, importers, marketing cooperatives and the public are represented on the board.

Yeutter named Harold Binford Weaver, Navasota, Texas, to represent Region 5 honey producers in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Harry Roy Fulton, Starkville, Miss., has been appointed as his alternate.

Reappointed to represent Region 6 honey producers in Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico is William Ray Merritt of Tallahassee, Fla. Frank Edward Randall, Umatilla, Fla., is the alternate.

Appointed to represent honey handlers is Neil Jay Miller of Blackfoot, Idaho. Shirley Ilean Watson Miller of Midvale, Utah, is the alternate.

Appointed as a board member representing honey importers is Michael Zane Ingalls, Sultan, Wash. Linda Sandt of Easton, Pa., is the alternate.

Appointed as a public member representing the interests of the general public is Melissa Grace Hart, Huntsville, Ala. Betty Lane, Statesboro, Ga., is the alternate.

The National Honey Board administers provisions of the 1986 federal National Honey Research, Promotion and Consumer Information Order, which authorizes development of programs to improve the position of honey in the marketplace. Honey producers and importers finance the program and its administration through assessments placed on honey and honey products.

Jacque Lee (202) 447-8998

#

AIRBORNE CANDID CAMERAS TO HELP FARMERS, RANCHERS

WASHINGTON, May 14—A new type of video programming may get high ratings from farmers and ranchers. A U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist says special color videos—taken from planes at 3,000 to 12,500 feet—can reveal outbreaks of weeds, insects and plant diseases.

“In a year or so,” said James H. Everitt of the Agricultural Research Service, “agricultural consultants in the U.S. may offer farmers these videos. That will allow them to act more quickly to protect crops and livestock and to make better use of fertilizers and pesticides.

“Aerial video won’t replace aerial photography and satellite data, but it can give the user a lot of the information faster and cheaper. Plus, video cameras have higher light sensitivity than film, and that allows them to be used on cloudy days.”

An Australian firm is already using the ARS’ basic three-camera system design to provide information for water management in cotton fields. “And we’ve had a lot of interest from U.S. companies, universities and government agencies,” Everitt said.

On Wednesday, May 16, he will report on the video system in Greenbelt, Md., at the 15th annual science symposium sponsored by the agency’s Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center. Everitt—a range scientist who heads the ARS Remote Sensing Research Laboratory in Weslaco, Texas—developed the system along with colleagues David E. Escobar and Juan R. Noriega.

On a flight, the three cameras tape the same shot through different filters: near-infrared, red or yellow-green. The separate images are fed into three Super-VHS recorders. A fourth recorder receives a composite, called color-infrared.

Color differences from the varying light-reflecting properties of plants and soil reveal phenomena such as:

- Mounds built by destructive harvester ants in cotton fields and pastures;

- Deposits of sooty mold, caused by certain insects, on leaves of grapefruit and orange trees;

- Chlorosis, an iron deficiency that yellows grain sorghum leaves;

- Salinity and waterlogging in soils;

- Rice borer damage to sugar cane; and

—Nitrogen deficiencies as well as overall crop vigor in alfalfa, corn, cotton and other crop and range plants.

Everitt, Escobar and Noriega have used the system to map outbreaks of broom snakeweed—a weed toxic to cattle in all 17 western states—and detect the presence of more than a dozen weeds, insect pests, plant diseases and crop conditions. “We’re steadily expanding the list,” Everitt said. Escobar operates the system. Cameras are mounted on a floor porthole aboard a two-engine Aero Commander 680S flown by ARS pilot Rene Davis.

A clearer video image comes from Super-VHS recording, which makes 400 lines of horizontal resolution compared with the 240 lines of typical home recorders. Also, a two-hour Super-VHS tape costs about \$15, Everitt said, while a roll of aerial film, plus developing, can cost \$200 to \$1000.

“Since there’s a video monitor right in the plane’s cockpit,” he added, “we can monitor the action live.” The scientists then review the tapes more closely on a VCR back at the lab. “When we find scenes of special interest,” said Escobar, “we use a computer to convert individual frames into digital data to classify and quantify ground conditions such as areas of broom snakeweed.”

In tests, the scientists recently mapped false broomweed—a related pest—on the 8,000-acre cattle spread of two cooperating ranchers, Dan and Richard Butler of Raymondville, Texas.

Other work is planned with the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Producers Association, which is concerned about outbreaks of rice borers. “It’s pretty hard to see anything from the ground in a big sugar cane field once the crop gets high, but we can spot borer damage from the air,” Everitt said.

He outlined several other possible applications of airborne video, such as:

—Monitoring programs in which beneficial insects are released to control plant pests;

—Assessing hail and flood damage to crops for insurance claims; and

—Estimating crop production, especially in underdeveloped countries where facilities for developing aerial photo film are hard to find.

At this year’s symposium, May 16-18, the theme is “Remote Sensing for Agriculture.” It normally is held at the Beltsville center, but this year

is in nearby Greenbelt, home of the symposium's co-sponsor, the Goddard Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Jim De Quattro (301) 344-4296

#

PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR USSR AND PAKISTAN

WASHINGTON, May 14—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the following activity:

—Export sales of 150,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to the USSR during the 1989-90 marketing year and under the seventh year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement signed Aug. 25, 1983 and extended Nov. 28, 1988;

—Export sales of 100,000 tons of soft red winter wheat for delivery to the USSR during 1990-91 and under the seventh year of the LTA; and

—Export sales of 30,000 tons of soybean oil for delivery to Pakistan during 1989-90.

The marketing year for corn began Sept. 1, for soybean oil began Oct. 1, and for wheat begins June 1.

Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the seventh year of the agreement (which began Oct. 1, 1989 and ends Sept. 30, 1990) total 19,345,700 tons, of which wheat is 3,561,500 tons and corn is 15,784,200 tons. Sales of soybeans total 342,300 tons and soybean meal total 1,196,700 tons. In addition, sales of barley total 7,300 tons.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity (20,000 metric tons or more for soybean oil), made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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USDA REQUESTS COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE REGULATIONS FOR "REFRIGERATED" MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, May 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service is requesting public comments on how best to propose new regulations to ensure the safety of certain refrigerated meat and poultry products.

Products that would be covered by the regulations include ready-to-eat, uncured, perishable meat and poultry items that are packaged in a variety of sealed containers and bear statements such as "perishable" or "keep refrigerated." Examples include soups, sauces, pastas, salads and entrees found in refrigerated cases in delicatessens and grocery stores. Foods that are frozen or that consist entirely of cured meat or poultry are not included.

"Consumer demand for fresh convenience foods has greatly increased the variety of these products on the market," said FSIS Administrator Dr. Lester M. Crawford. "These products are perishable and if improperly processed or handled, they may pose unique health risks to consumers. We are asking for public comments, information, scientific data, and recommendations, to help determine what additional regulations are necessary to ensure the safety of these products."

The new refrigerated products differ greatly from traditional meat and poultry products, Crawford said. Although they are processed and packaged to destroy or retard the growth of spoilage microorganisms, giving them a much longer shelf-life, they do not receive the thermal heat processing that traditional canned goods receive to kill all bacteria.

Products that would be covered by the regulations are those which have been processed by: heat-treating and cooling prior to sealing the product in a container; hotfilling packages, then sealing and cooling them; placing raw or heat-treated and cooled ingredients in containers, heat processing them, and then cooling them; and, assembling or formulating previously cooked and cooled meat and poultry with other ingredients, then sealing them in containers without applying a heat treatment.

Crawford requested that commenters address both the microbiological safety and wholesomeness of refrigerated products, and what regulations should be developed for their processing, packaging, labeling, distribution and storage.

FSIS is also reviewing advice and recommendations made by the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods on

ways to ensure the microbiological safety of refrigerated meat and poultry products.

The request for comments was published May 14 in the Federal Register. Comments are due by July 13, and should be sent to the Policy Office, Attention: Linda Carey, Hearing Clerk, Room 3171-South, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service and its 9,000 employees are dedicated to ensuring that the U.S. meat and poultry supply is safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

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RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS VISITING USDA PLANT LABS

WASHINGTON, May 15—Two scientists from one of Russia's top agricultural institutes are touring seven U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratories nationwide to learn how plant germplasm facilities in the U.S. are managed.

Germplasm is the hereditary genetic material contained in seeds and cells of organisms.

"The Soviet scientists want to establish a computer-linked database between Russian and American germplasm collections," said Henry L. Shands. He is national program leader for plant germplasm at USDA's Agricultural Research Service, which has collections of 8,695 plant species at more than 30 locations.

The visitors are Vladimir Krivchenko, head of Vavilov All Union Institute of Plant Industry in Leningrad, and Sergey Alexanyan, the institute's head of foreign relations.

Shands said the Soviets will be at the ARS Beltsville, Md., research center May 24-31. They will meet with Charles E. Hess, assistant secretary of agriculture for science and education, and top ARS officials. Discussions will include their plans for a computerized database of Soviet germplasm collections and the proposed computer linkage with the ARS Germplasm Resources Information Network, or GRIN.

Prior to arriving in Beltsville, Krivchenko and Alexanyan will have toured ARS labs in Fort Collins, Colo. (May 10-13); Davis, Calif.

(May 13-16); Logan, Utah, and Aberdeen, Idaho (May 16-18); Ames, Iowa (May 20-22); and West Lafayette, Ind. (May 23).

Paul J. Fitzgerald, ARS scientific advisor for plant germplasm, is accompanying Krivchenko and Alexanyan on their cross-country tour to hear and see how U.S. scientists evaluate, catalogue and preserve germplasm collections. "The proposed computer linkage between Soviet and American germplasm collections would increase accessibility to genetic information on plants for both sides," said Fitzgerald.

The Russians will also discuss future joint plant explorations in both countries.

"American and Soviet farmers alike want and need crops with improved traits such as insect and disease resistance, higher yield and tolerance to drought, heat and cold," said Fitzgerald. "By collecting plants and seeds from abroad, both nations can ensure their germplasm collections are as complete as possible. That will expand the diversity of genetic resources available for developing new plant varieties."

Soviet and American agricultural scientists have exchanged ideas and information for years, including expeditions between the two countries to gather new germplasm.

Julie Corliss (415) 559-6069

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, May 15—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.63 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.77 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.66 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.32 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.34 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$4.86 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$4.68 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made May 22 at 3 p.m. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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USDA REDUCES MEMBERSHIP ON BEEF PROMOTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, May 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is reducing the number of members on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board as a result of changes in cattle inventories and in cattle and beef imports since the national beef promotion and research program was implemented in 1986.

"Indiana, Oregon and Tennessee each lose one board member, while the importer unit of the board will gain one member. The board will have 111 rather than the current 113 members," Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service said. "Domestic cattle producer representation on the board will decline from 108 to 105, while importer representation will increase from 5 to 6," he said.

The change is based on the recommendation of the board. The order provides that at least every three years and not more than every two years, the board review the geographic distribution of U.S. cattle inventories and the volume of imported cattle, beef and beef products, reapportioning board membership accordingly.

Haley said the reductions are based on requirements of the 1986 beef promotion and research order, which is authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985.

Haley said that since 1986, the three states had experienced declines in cattle numbers ranging from 170,000 to 200,000 head, and these reduced inventories are below the number required to maintain each state's current number of members. Importers would be entitled to one more member because of increases in beef and cattle imports equivalent to about one million head of cattle, he said.

In a proposal for reducing board membership published in the Feb. 23 Federal Register, Nebraska would have lost a seat, but USDA has found cattle inventories in Nebraska sufficient for the state to retain its six members on the board, Haley said.

Details of the changes will appear as a final rule in the May 17 Federal Register. Copies and additional information are available from Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2624-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 382-1115.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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USDA ANNOUNCES 1990 COTTON CLASSING FEES

WASHINGTON, May 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that fees charged cotton producers for manual and high volume instrument (HVI) classification of cotton will be unchanged from 1989, but that fees for certain other cotton classification and testing services will be raised on July 1.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said anticipated increased volume of cotton to be classed this coming year is expected to offset projected rises in costs normally causing classing fee increases.

The fees are set by a formula stipulated in the Uniform Cotton Classing Fees Act of 1987. Elements of the formula are estimated crop size, the rate of inflation and the operating reserve fund of AMS's Cotton Division, Haley said.

The fees to continue unchanged are \$1.23 per bale for manual classing and \$1.73 per bale for HVI classing.

Also to continue unchanged is the five-cents-per-bale discount offered to grower-agents who voluntarily provide centralized billing and collection services, Haley said.

USDA will increase certain other cotton services fees, among them fiber and processing testing. These increases are necessary because of higher costs of rent and utilities, and mandated salary rises, and are not covered by the Uniform Cotton Classing Fees Act of 1987. Fees for these services must reflect the full cost to AMS of providing their service.

The 1990 cotton crop fee schedule will be published as a final rule in the May 17 Federal Register. Copies are available from Ronald H. Read, Cotton Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2641-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202) 447-2145.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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USDA TO INCREASE FEES FOR MEAT GRADING AND CERTIFICATION SERVICES

WASHINGTON, May 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase its hourly fees for voluntary meat grading and certification services, effective May 20.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the increases would offset higher costs associated with employee salaries, travel and health benefits.

The fee increases are as follows:

—from the current \$28.80 to \$30.80 for “base hours,” (40 hours per week) for “commitment applicants,” i.e., plants using graders full time;

—from the current \$31.20 to \$33.20 for base hours for “non-commitment applicants,” i.e., plants using graders intermittently or part-time;

—from \$36.80 to \$38.80 for “premium hours,” i.e., overtime on any day, and any work prior to 6 a.m. and after 6 p.m. weekdays;

—from \$57.60 to \$61.60 for holiday hours for any user.

USDA's meat grading service identifies yields and quality of carcasses. Its meat certification service provides large-scale buyers reliable verification that their meat suppliers fulfill contract specifications, Haley said.

Under law, these services are provided to users on a fee-basis. The fees must approximate service costs.

The changes will appear as a final rule in the May 17 Federal Register. Copies and further information may be obtained from Eugene M. Martin, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2638-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 382-1113.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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SATELLITE CAN SPOT UNPLOWED FIELDS THAT HARBOR BOLL WEEVILS

WASHINGTON, May 16—A satellite circling 515 miles above the Earth can locate sanctuaries of the dreaded boll weevil in Texas fields where cotton has been harvested but stalks haven't yet been plowed under, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said.

“Off-season plowing, or ‘plowdown’, destroys the weevils’ food sources and protective homes. Many of them don’t survive the winter, so much less insecticide is needed for the next growing season,” said Arthur J. Richardson, a physicist with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

“Using data from the SPOT-1 satellite, we can identify harvested fields in the Rio Grande Valley where the stalks have not been plowed,” added Richardson, of the ARS Remote Sensing Research Laboratory, Weslaco, Texas.

ARS scientists devised ways to accurately interpret the satellite data and thus help Texas officials enforce a 1987 law requiring growers to shred cotton stalks and plow them under about three weeks after harvest—in late summer to early fall.

Without plowdown, Rio Grande Valley farmers may spray their next cotton crop with boll-weevil insecticides an average of 15 times, at a cost of at least \$2 million per spray, Richardson said. With plowdown, they may need to spray only half as often.

Richardson will present detailed findings tomorrow at the 15th annual science symposium of the ARS Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center. This year’s symposium, May 16-18, is being held in Greenbelt, Md., at Goddard Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautical and Space Administration. NASA and ARS are cosponsoring the meeting. The theme is “Remote Sensing for Agriculture.”

France’s SPOT-1 and similar satellites measure sunlight reflected from Earth in light bands invisible to humans. Richardson said satellite data on the plowdown will be used initially to supplement surveys now done from planes. “Eventually, we could do more thorough and systematic monitoring with the SPOT data, and that would increase pesticide savings for farmers,” he said.

“Consistent application of the plowdown could save Rio Grande Valley farmers \$15 million annually in pesticide spray costs and reduce the risk

of environmental damage,” said entomologist Kenneth R. Summy at the research agency’s Subtropical Agricultural Research Laboratory in Weslaco.

“What the plowdown does is buy valuable time—and that has several payoffs,” said Summy. “First, it pushes back the time when boll weevils become a problem that calls for insecticide. This, in turn, allows cotton plants to survive the period—including the setting of the first sets of bolls—when they’re most vulnerable to weevils.” Those first bolls yield cotton with the highest quality fibers, he noted.

Delaying spraying for boll weevils, he added, allows beneficial insects to build up. “Insects such as pirate bugs, green lacewings and parasitic wasps attack tobacco budworm and corn earworm, which are pests not only of cotton but also of many of the valley’s fruit and vegetable crops,” said Summy.

Before the 1987 Texas Stalk Destruction Law, it was difficult to ensure a systematic plowdown that would significantly reduce weevil populations.

To test and prove methods of using satellite imagery, Richardson and Summy are cooperating with ARS colleagues, researchers from the University of Texas, Austin, and officials of the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Cotton and Grain Producers Association of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The 1.5-million-acre valley averages about 300,000 acres of cotton. Last year, Summy said, the total was over 400,000 acres.

The boll weevil is a major pest in most of the major cotton growing areas in the United States and Mexico. It was first detected in the U.S. in 1892 near Brownsville, Texas.

Dennis Senft (415) 559-6068

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U.S. AND CANADA TO COOPERATE IN FOREST PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, May 17—U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter and Canadian Minister of Forestry Frank Oberle today agreed to improve cooperation between the two countries in forest research and protection.

The agreement, defined in a memorandum of understanding signed today by Yeutter and Oberle, encourages joint efforts by the two countries to resolve common problems related to forestry. It specifically addresses six areas of cooperation:

- Fire behavior and emissions research, to facilitate joint investigations of the behavior, emissions, and environmental effects of wildfires and prescribed fires. The objectives of these investigations will be to improve safety and effectiveness of prescribed fires and to determine the environmental impact of smoke and trace-gas emissions from forest fires;

- Hardwood decline research, to investigate the decline in vigor and productivity of sugar maple stands in the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada. The agreement will facilitate cooperation in research to define the extent of the decline and determine its relationship to regional air pollution;

- Spruce budworms research, to investigate outbreaks of spruce budworms that have caused large losses of fiber resources in both countries. The new agreement will assist U.S. and Canadian forest managers in exchanging information and technology to control infestations and minimize adverse environmental impacts of protection efforts;

- North American timber analysis, to expand cooperation in forest inventory, resource and timber supply analysis, as well as analysis of international trade and demand;

- Mountain pine beetle management, to facilitate cooperative development of new technologies and management strategies for reducing losses of wood fiber due to pine beetle infestations in lodgepole pine forests; and

- Wood utilization research, to increase cooperation in developing improved technology for achieving more efficient performance and use of wood and wood fiber-based products.

Yeutter and Oberle said the agreement provides a foundation for closer cooperation in conserving natural resources in North America.

Bruce Jewell (202) 447-6957

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**THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, May 17—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly honey-loan repayment levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop

White	40.0
Light Amber	36.0
Nontable.....	33.0

The weekly repayment level for 1990-crop honey is 38.0 cents per pound for all colors, table and nontable grades.

Levels are unchanged from those announced last week.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601

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LACTOSE FIGHTS SALMONELLA DESPITE FERMENTATION

WASHINGTON, May 17—Lactose—milk sugar—apparently can block Salmonella infection in broiler chicks even when the Salmonella bacteria are capable of fermenting the lactose, a U.S. Department of Agriculture microbiologist reported today.

Richard L. Ziprin of USDA's Agricultural Research Service said researchers had feared that the fermentation would inhibit the effectiveness of lactose as a weapon against Salmonella. Earlier tests had indicated that adding lactose to broiler chicks' drinking water could reduce the number of Salmonella typhimurium bacteria in the birds by up to 99.9 percent.

Subsequent tests at College Station, Texas, have shown that broiler chicks dosed with high numbers of lactose-fermenting Salmonella had

only a fraction of the number of Salmonella bacteria in their bodies after a few days on lactose, Ziprin said. He reported his findings in Anaheim, Calif., at the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology.

“All species of Salmonella have a number of types that ferment lactose,” Ziprin said. “We wanted to see if we could stop the lactosefermenting organisms in broiler chicks.”

Ziprin and colleagues at the ARS Veterinary Toxicology and Entomology Research Laboratory at College Station gave newly hatched broiler chicks 1,000 to 100,000 lactose-fermenting *S. typhimurium* bacteria apiece. The chicks also were fed anaerobic organisms to help their digestive systems quickly develop a microorganism population similar to that seen in adult birds.

Some of the chicks then were put on a diet including 7 percent lactose, while others received the same feed without lactose. After 10 days, the researchers checked the intestinal contents of a sampling of the birds.

Ziprin said the researchers found zero to 1,000 lactose-fermenting Salmonella remaining in the birds that had been fed lactose, while the control birds had 10,000 to 100,000 Salmonella per gram of material checked.

He also noted that the pH of the birds' intestines was changed by the presence of the lactose.

“The intestinal pH becomes more acidic,” he said. “In that environment, undissociated propionic acid increases. That substance naturally inhibits the growth of Salmonella, so that might be why lactose works as a control method.”

Many food poisoning bacteria are members of the Salmonella family and can take up residence in the digestive tracts of livestock and poultry. Chickens may show few signs of infection, but pass on the bacteria through their feces.

It is estimated that as many as 4 million Americans become ill each year after eating various foods contaminated with Salmonella, although it is generally life-threatening only to the very young, the elderly or people whose natural immune systems are somehow impaired. Proper cooking techniques and kitchen sanitation can help eliminate the health threat from the bacteria.

Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-4089

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